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**Yosof Ibderi was mayor of Gharyan in northwest Libya until militias led by Khalifa Haftar attacked and seized the city last month. Mayor Gherian, who was displaced to Tripoli, today released the following statement regarding the humanitarian crisis in the city of 200,000 under control of Haftar:**

**"The humanitarian situation is dire. Most of the residents are trapped in Gherian and have no place to go. There are no ways of bringing food items, cooking gas, or basic necessities into the town. Haftar's militia's created check points and instituted extreme security measures, including confiscating and searching phones, enacting strict curfews. There is no freedom of expression, assembly or movement. Even during the times of Qaddafi it wasn't this bad. Residents live in constant fear, and at some have been killed or are missing. The occupiers are thugs, militias with very disturbing tribal vigilante inclinations. The few residents of Gherian who were initially supportive of Haftar are now 180 degrees against him after they saw the type of brutality his forces unleashed**

**MEMO**

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**TO:** The White House

**FROM:** Bryan Lanza

**DATE:** May 3, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Request for a telephone call to President Donald Trump by Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj

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On behalf of Mercury Public Affairs LLC, and at the direction of Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj, of the Government of National Accord (GNA), Libya, we request the scheduling of a telephone call between the Prime Minister and President Donald Trump at the president's earliest convenience.

The Prime Minister is aware through news reports of President Trump's telephone call with Mr. Khalifa Haftar on Monday, April 15, 2019. Again, through press reports, it would seem based on President Trump's comments that he is operating with inaccurate information as to the situation in Libya, which is deteriorating as a result of Mr. Haftar's actions. The Prime Minister would very much like to address those inaccuracies and provide an "on the ground description" surrounding the dangerous turn of events as a result of Mr. Haftar's actions and the need for a peaceful resolution solution to Libya's current challenge as reflected by the current efforts of the GNA.

The call is warranted to bring an end to wonton loss of life and serious injury, as well as deleterious economic impacts that not only impact Libya, but can and will impact Libya's neighbors and the world.

The Prime Minister believes the time is of the essence for the United States to lead in facilitating and end to the senseless violence and in creating a democratic state in Libya.

The Prime Minister looks forward to a constructive telephone conversation with President Trump at his earliest opportunity. Thank you.

**Disseminated by Mercury Public Affairs LLC, a registered foreign agent, on behalf of the Government of National Accord Libya, Office of the Prime Minister. More information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.**

**From:** [bdefalco@mercuryllc.com](mailto:bdefalco@mercuryllc.com)

**Date:** May 3, 2019 at 9:45:42 PM EDT

**To:** [ameldrum@ap.org](mailto:ameldrum@ap.org), [JGambrell@ap.org](mailto:JGambrell@ap.org), [ajohnson@ap.org](mailto:ajohnson@ap.org)

**Subject:** Local Libyan mayor willing to do interviews with press

Dear Andrew, Jon and Anna -

The mayor of Gherian, Youssef Elbedari, has been displaced in Tripoli since his city was seized by Khalifa Hifter's militias. He is interested in speaking out about the humanitarian crisis and war crimes carried out in his city for the past month. Mr. Elbedari is still in Tripoli and is willing to do interviews.

According to Mr. Elbedari, Hifter has detailed and executed civilian who speak out against the LNA; he says several bodies were recovered in the streets after they were executed by Hifter. The mayor can speak to the humanitarian crisis and how Hifter has turned his city into an LNA military operation center in the West.

Hope this can be helpful to you.

Mr. Elbedari's phone: +218 92-7203035

Email: [Buono133@yahoo.com](mailto:Buono133@yahoo.com)

Kindest regards,  
Beth

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